

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 October 2003 (16.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/085098 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 1/36
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB03/01789
- (22) International Filing Date: 1 April 2003 (01.04.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
02290864.4 5 April 2002 (05.04.2002) EP
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*
- Published:**
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF VIRULENCE ASSOCIATED REGIONS RD1 AND RD5 LEADING TO IMPROVE VACCINE OF *M. BOVIS* BCG AND *M. MICROTI*

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a strain of *M. bovis* BCG or *M. microti*, wherein said strain has integrated part or all of the RD1 region responsible for enhanced immunogenicity of the tubercle bacilli, especially the ESAT-6 and CFP-10 genes. These strains will be referred as the *M. bovis* BCG::RD1 or *M. microti*::RD1 strains and are useful as a new improved vaccine for preventing tuberculosis and as a therapeutical product enhancing the stimulation of the immune system for the treatment of bladder cancer. These strains are also useful for the expression and presentation of heterologous antigens and molecule that are of therapeutic or prophylactic interest.

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